



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *Bloomberg* reports that Suez SA, the French energy and water group planning to merge with Gaz de France SA, wants to own and operate “third-generation” nuclear reactors by 2020 and is studying atomic energy expansion in Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. The Paris-based group already operates two nuclear plants in Belgium with a total of seven reactors through its Electrabel SA unit. (See item [6](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that Southern California’s major water wholesaler announced plans to buy billions of gallons of water from farmers in the state to make up for a shortfall left by drought and restrictions on pumping out of the Delta. The water is being brokered by the state Department of Water Resources, which will look to farmers to voluntarily offer parts of their water supply for sale. (See item [21](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **Oil rises in New York as some speculators may aim for \$100.** Crude oil futures rose in New York as some traders may try to take advantage of a holiday week to make a run at \$100 a barrel. Oil futures have surged 21 percent in the past two months as the dollar fell and U.S. inventories dropped. Supplies of crude oil and distillate fuel, a category that includes heating oil and diesel, fell last week, according to an Energy Department report on November 21.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=a1qCE60AARXY&refer=energy>

2. *November 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **Nymex natural gas advances on outlook for lower temperatures.** Natural gas in New York rose on forecasts for lower temperatures in the Midwest and Northeast, the two largest regions using the fuel for heating. Cold weather will move into the northern states starting November 28. The weather will become colder through December 3, according to MDA Federal Inc.'s EarthSat Energy Weather of Rockville, Maryland. The cooler temperatures may reduce the near-record U.S. inventories that had worked to depress prices of natural gas. The U.S. Climate Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Maryland, estimates temperatures will be below average in most of the U.S. over the next two weeks. The Energy Department reported on November 21 that gas supplies for the week ended November 16 increased 4 billion cubic feet to 3.54 trillion cubic feet, a level considered adequate to meet winter heating demand. The U.S. typically pulls about 2 trillion cubic feet from storage during winter. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aG69.ZHONuTI&refer=energy>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 23, Dundas Star News* – (National) **United States sets higher chemical safety standards.** Chemical ingredients which might be used to make pesticides are considered “chemicals of interest” by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The organization launched an extensive chemical security program this week, requiring companies that use or store chemicals to report the type and quantity of material. American companies that meet a certain threshold of listed chemicals could be required to follow extensive facility and anti-terrorism standards. A 60-day window for companies that meet the threshold to complete the on-line survey was scheduled to begin this week. When the companies that use the listed chemicals have reported their information, Homeland Security will determine which ones must meet more rigorous security conditions.
Source: <http://www.dundasstarnews.com/news/article/107119>
4. *November 21, WOOD TV8 Grand Rapids, Michigan* – (Michigan) **Chemical explosion at Unisolar plant.** A two-and-a-half story hole was blown through the side of a building at the Unisolar plant in Greenville, Michigan. Wednesday morning, a chemical explosion ripped the side of the building off while 150 employees were inside. No one was near the pump that caused the blast, and no one was hurt. About 45 of those workers were evacuated immediately as the Montcalm County Specialized Emergency Rescue Team, hazmat crews and fire departments from Greenville and Belding rushed to the scene. The response and rescue teams kept everyone at a safe distance until they found there was no chemical release, and had checked the air quality for any leaks. As crews repair the damage, they continue to search for an exact cause to the explosion.
Source: <http://www.woodtv.com/global/story.asp?s=7391929>

5. *November 21, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Georgia Gulf confirms plant fire damage.** Georgia Gulf Corp. confirmed Wednesday that its Lake Charles plant in Louisiana was damaged by a fire on November 10. There were no injuries from the incident, the company said. Georgia Gulf is currently analyzing the fire's cause and assessing damages, but said it will be several weeks before the investigation is complete and an accurate damage estimate is established. The Lake Charles facility has a capacity of about 900 million pounds a year. The company's two other vinyl chloride monomers plants were not impacted by the fire. Georgia Gulf said it expects the Lake Charles plant to be fully operational before demand picks up next year.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071121/georgia_gulf_fire.html?.v=1

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 23, Bloomberg* – (National) **Suez wants 'third-generation' nuclear reactor by 2020.** Suez SA, the French energy and water group planning to merge with Gaz de France SA, wants to own and operate "third-generation" nuclear reactors by 2020 and is studying atomic energy expansion in Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. The Paris-based group, which with Gaz de France will become the world's third-largest utility, operates two nuclear plants in Belgium with a total of seven reactors through its Electrabel SA unit, the country's biggest power company. Expanding in nuclear power would be in addition to the combined group's strategy to nearly double managed production capacity in Europe and internationally by 2013.
Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aI808f0q1ZvU&refer=energy>
7. *November 22, Deseret Morning News* – (Utah) **Utah may get nuclear waste from Italy.** EnergySolutions Inc. wants to bring less than 1,600 tons of low-level nuclear waste from Italy to its disposal landfill at Clive, Tooele County in Utah. The amount would be approximately 8 percent of the less than 20,000 tons of the material the company wants to import to the United States from Italy by ship. The total amount, including that destined for Utah, was described by EnergySolutions as "well under the 20,000 tons specified" in a license application. The waste would arrive at the ports of Charleston, South Carolina, and New Orleans and then go to EnergySolutions' facility at Bear Creek, Tennessee, for processing. A small amount left after recycling would be sent to Utah.
Source: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,5143,695229861,00.html>
8. *November 22, Tri-City Herald* – (National) **New robot tested to clean radioactive waste from Hanford tanks.** An 800-pound robot powered over a pile of junk at the Hanford Cold Test Facility on Wednesday, used its blade to push aside heavy pipes and rocks, then swept the concrete clean with a spray of water. Hanford engineers are hoping it performs as well when it is lowered into Hanford Tank C-109 to help clean up rocklike radioactive sludge later this winter. It is the latest technology developed for the Department of Energy to help empty the 530,000-gallon tank and others like it of

radioactive waste.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/v-rss/story/9471378p-9382586c.html>

9. *November 21, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Third nuclear reactor approved for North Anna.** Federal regulators approved an early site permit for a third nuclear reactor at Dominion Virginia Power's North Anna Power Station. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) decision allows Richmond-based Dominion to complete preliminary site work. The energy company still must seek NRC approval for an additional license before any significant construction can occur. The early site permit is "an important step in ensuring that not only will safe, reliable nuclear energy be available as we plan for future growth, but we will have an electrical generating source that can produce a significant amount of electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions," the president and chief executive officer of Dominion Generation, said in a statement.

Source:

<http://www.wsls.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WLS%2FMGArticle%2FSL%2FBasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353579461&path=!news!localnews>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *November 23, Emerald Coast Community* – (National) **C-5M undergoes testing at world's largest climatic laboratory.** The C-5M Super Galaxy will undergo testing to determine the durability and functionality of subsystems and engines new to the airframe. The C-5 Avionics Modernization Program began in 1998 and includes upgrading avionics to Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management compliance, improving navigation, communication, and safety equipment, and installing a new autopilot system. Another part of the modernization plan is a comprehensive Re-engining and Reliability Program, which includes new CF-6 engines, pylons and auxiliary power units, with upgrades to the aircraft's skin and frame, flight controls, landing gear and pressurization system. This modernization program will enhance aircraft reliability and maintainability, maintain structural and system integrity, reduce cost of ownership and increase operational capability well into the 21st century, according to an *AF Link* article published November 26, 2006. Once the data is collected, it will be sent to Lockheed Martin engineers for review and to possibly improve to this upgrade on a 35-year-old airframe.

Source:

http://community.emeraldcoast.com/news/testing_20330_article.html/hangar_aircraft.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *November 23, Vindicator* - (Pennsylvania) **Pa. Senate makes a move to stop 'phishing' scams.** On November 19, the Pennsylvania State Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 390, a legislation that would make it illegal to go "phishing" in

Pennsylvania. SB 390 would make it a felony offense to phish personal information and would carry a fine of \$100,000 for each violation, along with the ability to collect damages up to three times the actual amount, if the court so rules, as well as attorney fees.

Source: http://www.vindy.com/content/local_regional/360115126077993.php

12. *November 23, News Observer* - (North Carolina) **E-mail scam uses NAACP exec's name.** The executive director of the North Carolina State National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter became a victim of one of the latest Internet scams. The State Bureau of Investigation computer crimes unit, federal investigators and the Internet Crime Complaint Center are looking into the incident, a hoax that puts a new twist on an old Nigerian e-mail swindle: the scammer impersonates the victim, sending a plea for help to addresses in the victim's personal address book. "The situation with Ms. Turner is the first of its kind that we've heard of," said the spokeswoman for the state attorney general. The messages are often full of misspellings, but the stories often have a few personal details about the sender that make the pleas somewhat plausible. The fraud center and the state Attorney General's Office put out many cautionary notices, warning people of new and common cons. The NAACP director said she is not aware of anyone who fell for the scam using her name and e-mail address.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/786687.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *November 23, CNN* - (International) **Sinking ship 'struck iceberg'.** A vessel touring the Antarctic hit an iceberg and started sinking on Thursday morning eastern time. The passenger ship, which runs tours between South America and Antarctica, reported problems near the South Shetland Islands, south of Argentina. Some 154 people were reported to have been on board the ship including 24 Britons, 17 Dutch, 14 Americans, 12 Canadian and 10 Australians. All passengers and crew were transferred safely to another ship. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/11/23/antarctica.ship/index.html>

14. *November 21, KIRO Channel 7, Seattle & Associated Press* - (Washington) **Unsafe ferries shut down Port Townsend-Keystone route.** The Port Townsend-Keystone ferry run in Washington was shut down Wednesday after inspections by the Transportation Department revealed hull damage to one ferry and issues with three others, reported KIRO 7 News. Department officials said the only four ferries able to navigate the narrow Keystone harbor are 80 years old and no longer safe to operate. The ferries predominantly serve the Port Townsend-Keystone and San Juan Islands inter-island routes. The Transportation secretary said the state may be able to restore car ferry service on the Port Townsend-Keystone run by end of January. Until then, she said, the department was working with transit agencies to work out carpool and vanpool rides for passengers throughout the Port Townsend, Coupeville and Whidbey Island communities.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/14659397/detail.html>

15. *November 21, News 10 Now, Syracuse* - (New York) **New law helps frustrated airplane passengers.** A New York State senator said the New Airline Passengers' Bill of Rights law will be posted at all airports across the state starting January 1st. For passengers stranded more than three hours on a plane, airlines will be required to provide snacks, water, fresh air, power, and working restrooms. If the airline does not meet these standards, they could pay a fine up to \$1,000 dollars per passenger.
Source: http://news10now.com/content/all_news/?ArID=127334&SecID=83

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *November 21, Associated Press* – (New York) **FBI alerts Sharpton, NY Daily News, others of mail threat.** A state prison inmate mailed white powder to the *New York Daily News*, the Reverend Al Sharpton and others, but initial tests indicated that the substance was harmless, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said on November 21. The FBI traced the mail to a prisoner in New York, who admitted he sent powder in letters to more than a half dozen people, said the FBI spokesman. A *Daily News* spokeswoman said that the newspaper received an envelope in the mail Tuesday containing what looked like talcum powder. A law enforcement official said a letter in the envelopes was rambling and full of grievances. He also said that the sender had included his return address on the envelopes, and that preliminary test results indicated that the white substance was talcum powder.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--sharpton-mailthre1121nov21,0,4068013.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *November 23, Leaf-Chronicle* – (Tennessee) **Farmers can seek new crop, livestock insurance protection.** The State Agriculture commissioner says Tennessee farmers will be eligible to sign up for whole-farm revenue insurance protection for crops and livestock beginning in 2008. Known as Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite), the plan provides protection against unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect farm income. "The plan differs from standard crop insurance in that multiple agricultural commodities can be insured with one product. This insurance product will be especially beneficial to Tennessee's diversified and small farms that depend on multiple crops and livestock for farm revenue. This plan will be important in helping Tennessee farmers mitigate future production losses like the ones we've experienced this year due to drought and freeze," the commissioner said.
Source:
<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071123/NEWS01/71121005>

18. *November 22, Canadian Press* – (Montana) **Mont. Livestock Department steps up regulation of cattle from Canada.** The Montana Department of Livestock says concerns about disease led it to impose a new rule on cattle from Canada. The rule, effective this week, requires documentation that breeding cattle are free of brucellosis, tuberculosis and trichomoniasis. Also set forth are requirements for animal identification, including a demand that animal ID include hot-iron brands, not just tattoos. Officials say tattoos can become hard to read over time, and to examine tattoos, animals must be restrained. The rule, similar to new rules in North Dakota and several other states, comes as the federal government this week began allowing cattle over 30 months of age into the U.S. market. Some U.S. officials oppose that action, which reversed a border closure the U.S. Department of Agriculture imposed in 2003 after mad cow disease was confirmed in an Alberta cow.
Source: http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5jO6GT_okrGXFNY3H46QJOgEzugiQ

19. *November 21, Government Technology* – (National) **Silent attack.** Agriculture in the United States is particularly vulnerable to terrorist activities because it is a very open system, particularly at the farm level, but also in most processing plants, said the former director and principal investigator at the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security at the University of California at Davis. “Because food from a single source tends to be distributed widely, contamination at one processing plant can have widespread implications. We’ve learned that, for example, with the spinach outbreak in Salinas County, it affected more than 18 states,” he said. “So in a very quick order, we can have widespread contaminated product.” While he said that, due to high turnover in the labor force, it would not be difficult to find access to a processing plant or any segment of a food system, the director of the Food Safety Unit within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food & Nutrition Service, contended that such attacks are growing more difficult because “a lot of work has been done to close security gaps.” The spread of contagious diseases that could threaten food safety or cripple agricultural production is another concern. In 2002, the assistant state veterinarian for North Carolina at the time showed by computer simulation that if foot-and-mouth disease were deliberately and simultaneously released in five different sites across the country, within two weeks, the disease would have spread to 44 states and destroyed 48.5 million animals. Also in 2001, the same veterinarian said the U.S. had collected intelligence data in Afghanistan that al Qaeda operatives had explored ways of damaging the U.S. food supply.
Source: http://www.govtech.com/gt/206169?id=&topic=117677&story_pg=3

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Water Sector

20. *November 22, WNCN 17 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **New water plan extends Falls Lake supply.** In North Carolina, a new plan aims to add weeks to Raleigh’s water supply. “We can use this water to offset some of the water that’s being released from Falls Lake,” said the Raleigh Public Utility director. For the last 24 hours, the city has been siphoning thousands of gallons of water from Lake Benson through a series of temporary tubes and yet unused water pipes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

requires that the city of Raleigh release water from Falls Lake into the Falls River. That water then goes on to other communities down stream. Thousands of gallons of water now flowing from Lake Benson into Falls River now means the city can extend the water supply in Falls Lake. According to the director, “the ultimate benefit of this is that we may receive 21 more days of water supply,” but that is only if Raleigh residents continue to conserve. The city is using a series of pipes intended for a sewer expansion. They have never been used, so now they are providing a short term solution for the city’s drought situation.

Source: <http://www.nbc17.com/midatlantic/ncn/news.apx.-content-articles-NCN-2007-11-22-0020.html>

21. *November 22, Associated Press* – (California) **District seeks farmers’ water.** Southern California’s major water wholesaler announced plans to buy billions of gallons of water from farmers in the state to make up for a shortfall left by drought and restrictions on pumping out of the Delta. The Metropolitan Water District would buy the water from Central Valley farmers on the state grid who calculate they can make more selling their water allotment than by using it to grow crops, the agency’s assistant general manager and chief operating officer said. The purchase plan, which would increase rates for the agency’s customers, is meant to shore up supply as the dry spell persists. The district sells water at wholesale rates to local utilities, providing Southern California with half its supply. The rest comes from underground sources and other local supplies. The agency could have trouble meeting its customers’ needs because of low rainfall, diminished flows in regional rivers and a legal ruling that limits pumping in the Delta. District board members on Tuesday authorized the agency to seek as much as 200,000 acre-feet of water from farmers in the state. The water is being brokered by the state Department of Water Resources, which will look to farmers to voluntarily offer parts of their water supply for sale. District directors will decide in coming months whether to impose the rations, along with limits on lawn-watering and other outdoor water use, officials said.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/bayandstate/ci_7532708?nclick_check=1

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *November 22, meatinfo.co.uk* – (International) **Bird flu: Fifth farm culled.** A cull was underway Thursday on a fifth farm after the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) declared it a Dangerous Contact following the avian influenza outbreak on nearby premises. A further 68,000 birds, including 56,000 ducks, 9,000 turkeys and 3,000 geese, were to be slaughtered as a precautionary measure on a farm, which is within the AI surveillance zone. “This decision has been taken based on new information which indicates the possibility that the poultry on this premise may have been exposed to infection,” the acting chief veterinary officer said.

Source: <http://www.meatinfo.co.uk/articles/53936/Bird-flu-Fifth-farm-culled.aspx?categoryid=9034>

23. *November 22, Los Angeles Times* – (National) **Hospital drug errors far from**

uncommon. At least 1.5 million Americans a year are injured after receiving the wrong medication or the incorrect dose, according to the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academies of Science. Such incidents have more than doubled in the last decade. Errors are made when pharmacists stock the drugs improperly, nurses do not double-check to make sure they are dispensing the proper medication or doctors' bad handwriting results in the wrong drug being administered, among other causes. Serious injuries associated with medication errors reported to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration increased from about 35,000 in 1998 to nearly 90,000 in 2005, according to a report published in the Archives of Internal Medicine. Of those cases, more than 5,000 deaths were tallied in 1998, but in 2005 more than 15,000 deaths were reported. A senior advisor in patient safety to the World Health Organization said errors are so common because so many Americans take prescription medications. Overall, more than 6 billion prescriptions are written in the U.S. annually, the highest number in the world. The blood thinners warfarin and heparin, along with insulin, morphine, potassium chloride are the five drugs most commonly associated with hospital errors, accounting for 28% of all errors that resulted in extended hospitalizations, according to a 2002 study by U.S. Pharmacopeia.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-me-twins22nov22,1,802845.story?page=1&ctrack=1&cset=true&track=crosspromo&coll=1a-headlines-frontpage>

24. *November 22, All Headlines News* – (National) **Le Femme NY Inc. recalls children's jewelry for lead content.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has declared a recall for 4,500 pieces of La Femme NY Children's Necklace and Earring Sets for high toxic levels of lead. There have been no reports on any incidents regarding lead poisoning before the recall. The product was made in China and was being sold at dollar stores across America from October 2005 to April 2007. In similar news, Pure Allure, Cherry Dale, and Colossal Jewelry have also recalled their metal jewelry for high levels of lead.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7009239034>

Government Facilities Sector

25. *November 23, Philadelphia Enquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Jail's contagious dispute.** At the Gloucester County Jail, Pennsylvania, methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) spread among inmates to corrections officers and several spouses of inmates and corrections officers were infected. No one has died, but the infections have left many of the victims with lifelong medical complications, produced 18 lawsuits, and raised questions about the jail's response. The federal lawsuits have already cost tens of thousands of dollars to defend, and there is a local precedent for substantial jury awards and payments to plaintiffs. Corrections facilities are especially vulnerable to MRSA because the germ spreads in close quarters and thrives in unsanitary settings. The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, a rights advocate for inmates, estimates that as many as 30 people infected with MRSA in city prisons have received undisclosed settlements.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/front_page/20071123_Jails_contagious_dispute.html

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *November 23, Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Grant puts new GPS software in hands of responders.** Christmas came early for Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which recently netted \$110,405 in federal Homeland Security money to equip emergency service providers with mobile mapping gadgets. Currently, when a call is dispatched, responders are told where the situation is located. The new software will allow dispatchers to instantly plot maps, routes and eventually interactive building images on laptops already in emergency response vehicles, Metro Communication's director. The mobile mapping software comes from New World Systems, a self-described public sector software company. More than 90 vehicles in the Sioux Falls Police Department, Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department and area ambulances will receive the software beginning in January. The software also is capable of mapping street closures construction work. Eventually, the mobile mapping systems will be capable of mapping the insides of public buildings, such as schools, "so within the laptop, the officer will know what's on the other side of that door," the director said.

Source:

<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071123/NEWS/711230310>

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Information Technology

27. *November 23, TechWorld.com* – (National) **Researcher releases proof-of-concept VoIP hack.** An expert has released a proof-of-concept program to show how easy it would be for criminals to eavesdrop on the VoIP-based phone calls of any company using the technology. Called SIPTap, the software is able to monitor multiple Voice-over-IP (VoIP) call streams, listening in and recording them for remote inspection as .wav files. All that the criminal would need would be to infect a single PC inside the network with a Trojan incorporating these functions, although the hack would work at ISP level as well. The program can index 'IP-tapped' calls by caller -- using SIP identity information -- and by recipient, or even by date. Running from August this year until the most recent tap on November 21st, SIPTap had no problems in extracting enough information on the test network to prove that call recording of any and every VoIP call at a hypothetical company was now a trivial exercise. SIPTap demonstrates that the worst-case nightmares of VoIP vulnerability are now well within the capabilities of organized crime, which could use such a program to steal confidential data from companies, governments and even the police. The demonstrator, a UK-based VoIP expert, said "the threat is that an attacker engineers a Trojan and has it sit there passively [on a network], recording calls from anywhere on the Internet." His advice was simple. "Apply the same vigor when building a VoIP network you would when building a Web site."

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9048618&intsrc=hm_list

28. *November 22, Reuters* – (International) **Skype encryption stumps German police.** German police are unable to decipher the encryption used in the Internet telephone software Skype to monitor calls by suspected criminals and terrorists, Germany's top police officer said on Thursday. Skype allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet from their computer to other Skype users free of charge. Law enforcement agencies and intelligence services have used wiretaps since the telephone was invented, but implementing them is much more complex in the modern telecommunications market where the providers are often foreign companies. "The encryption with Skype telephone software ... creates grave difficulties for us," said the president of Germany's Federal Police Office (BKA) at an annual gathering of security and law enforcement officials. "We can't decipher it. That's why we're talking about source telecommunication surveillance -- that is, getting to the source before encryption or after it's been decrypted." Experts say Skype and other Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling software are difficult to intercept because they work by breaking up voice data into small packets and switching them along thousands of router paths instead of a constant circuit between two parties, as with a traditional call. The police rep said they were not asking Skype to divulge its encryption keys or leave "back doors open" for German and other country's law enforcement authorities. "There are no discussions with Skype. I don't think that would help," he said, adding that he did not want to harm the competitiveness of any company. He said there was a vital need for German law enforcement agencies to have the ability to conduct on-line searches of computer hard drives of suspected terrorists using "Trojan horse" spyware. These searches are especially important in cases where the suspects are aware that their Internet traffic and phone calls may be monitored and choose to store sensitive information directly on their hard drives without emailing it. Spyware computer searches are illegal in Germany.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071122/wr_nm/security_internet_germany_dc;_ylt=AncWQ6lt4vFTvWGNmcTWN876VbIF

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

29. *November 22, Reuters* – (International) **Skype encryption stumps German police.** German police are unable to decipher the encryption used in the Internet telephone software Skype to monitor calls by suspected criminals and terrorists, Germany's top

police officer said on Thursday. Skype allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet from their computer to other Skype users free of charge. Law enforcement agencies and intelligence services have used wiretaps since the telephone was invented, but implementing them is much more complex in the modern telecommunications market where the providers are often foreign companies. “The encryption with Skype telephone software ... creates grave difficulties for us,” said the president of Germany’s Federal Police Office (BKA) at an annual gathering of security and law enforcement officials. “We can’t decipher it. That’s why we’re talking about source telecommunication surveillance -- that is, getting to the source before encryption or after it’s been decrypted.” Experts say Skype and other Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling software are difficult to intercept because they work by breaking up voice data into small packets and switching them along thousands of router paths instead of a constant circuit between two parties, as with a traditional call. The police rep said they were not asking Skype to divulge its encryption keys or leave “back doors open” for German and other country’s law enforcement authorities. “There are no discussions with Skype. I don’t think that would help,” he said, adding that he did not want to harm the competitiveness of any company. He said there was a vital need for German law enforcement agencies to have the ability to conduct on-line searches of computer hard drives of suspected terrorists using “Trojan horse” spyware. These searches are especially important in cases where the suspects are aware that their Internet traffic and phone calls may be monitored and choose to store sensitive information directly on their hard drives without emailing it. Spyware computer searches are illegal in Germany.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071122/wr_nm/security_internet_germany_dc;_ylt=AncWQ6lt4vFTvWGNmcTWN876VbIF

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Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *November 21, KTVU, California* – (California) **Police call Contra Costa suspicious device ‘a fake.’** A device thought to be dynamite resulted in the evacuation of over 200 homes for over four hours in the unincorporated Contra Costa County township of Knightsen, California, on Wednesday. After inspection, it was determined the supposed bomb was little more than a handful of road flares. Authorities are searching for anyone responsible for planting the fake device.

Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/14663960/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

31. *November 23, Ventura Country Star* – (California) **Fire remnants keep parts of Los Padres National Forest closed.** Parts of the Los Padres National Forest in California remain closed to the public as residual fires continue to burn in the area affected by last month’s Ranch fire, officials said. “There is still active fire in the oil fields, and the area will remain closed until further notice,” explained a U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service spokeswoman. An area east of Lake Piru, where the Los Padres and Angeles national forests meet, is also closed until further notice. As part of the post-Ranch fire cleanup, she said, the Forest Service will be doing some remedial work to stabilize Piru Canyon Road and the Potholes Trail above it. “We have a lot of public safety concerns in the Zaca fire burn area, especially the potential for mudslides and land slippage, and the trail system just doesn’t exist there anymore,” she said.

Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2007/nov/23/fire-remnants-keep-parts-of-los-padres-02/>

32. *November 22, Associated Press* – (National) **National parks contain private land.**

Within the 84-million-acre national park system are some 5.4 million acres of private parcels, an area nearly as big as New Hampshire. Many of these parcels have been held for generations by people who owned the land before Congress created the parks. The Park Service has identified about a third of the private land for acquisition. But in fiscal year 2007, the agency was allocated \$24.6 million for buying the property. That is little more than 1 percent of the \$2 billion or so the Park Service says would be needed to purchase all the land it wants. National Park Service spokesman Jeff Olson said the Bush administration has focused more on managing the land it already controls than on acquiring more. But he warned that unless the Park Service acquires the private land within the parks’ boundaries, “there is a real and pressing threat that inappropriate development will mar the landscape that people are flocking to for respite and retreat.”

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j0jEdvpZRqHWogv9giKpHcqmoSfwD8T28E5G0>

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Dams Sector

33. *November 22, CBS 13 Sacramento* – (California) **Thousands of fish dead in the Delta.**

In California, a huge number of fish died after officials began pumping water out of an area known as Prospect Island, near Sacramento’s deep water channel. They pumped the water out for safety reasons, to fix a levee. This area needed to be closed, according to water reclamation officials, for health and safety reasons. Ever since a levee broke about a year and a half ago around Prospect Island, the water has been turbulent. Five boats have capsized, and several people had to be rescued. In order for the levee to be repaired, water needs to be pumped out. Government officials say they did their planning. “We instructed the contractor that before he close this totally, to do it at low tide to allow as much water to get out and as many fish as possible,” says one official.

Source: <http://cbs13.com/local/delta.levee.dead.2.594116.html>

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